

STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)

December 19, 2014

Connecticut State Department Of Education

CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov

860-713-6860

Smarter Balanced Browser Information

The Smarter Balanced Secure Browser for the 2015 administration will be released in early January. This new browser will need to be downloaded on all testing devices prior to testing. The secure browser may also be used with the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments, the Smarter Balanced Training Tests and the Smarter Balanced Practice Tests. More information will be communicated in the *Student Assessment News* in January.

Information on the Computer Adaptive Test Engine

For a large majority of students, the computer adaptive test (CAT) engine will draw from **only** grade-level test items and stimuli (passages) across the various levels of difficulty (very easy through very hard). For a very small number of very high and very low achieving students, when the student is about two-thirds of the way through the test, the CAT algorithm may draw items and stimuli from an expanded pool. The expanded pool includes items and stimuli that are tagged for use in multiple grades and may be up to two grades above or below the tested grade. Access to items in the expanded pool does not exclude the student from being presented with grade-level items moving forward in the test.

- For mathematics, these test items align with the learning progressions either leading up to or moving beyond the grade-level content. (Students in Grade 5 will not, for example, be presented with a mathematics question about finding the square root of a number).
- For English language arts/literacy, passages, stimuli and associated items, link with the same assessment targets across the grades, but measure additional breadth in content. The additional breadth in content will include a broader range of language complexity that is used in text passages and listening stimuli.

Student performance will be based on the student's responses to grade-level items. The use of items in the expanded pool will allow for greater precision of the scale scores. There will be no indication in the student's Individual Student Report that they were presented items from the expanded pool.

Digital Library: Tutorial

The Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education created a 15-minute "[Navigating the Smarter Balanced Digital Library](#)" tutorial. After viewing the tutorial, educators will understand the Digital Library log in procedure and how to use the Digital Library search functionality to find resources. District Test Coordinators can e-mail questions about navigating the Smarter Balanced Digital Library to Joe.DiGarbo@ct.gov.

TUTORIAL

National Assessment of Educational Progress

Beginning January 26 through March 6, 2015, NAEP will be administered in approximately 250 Connecticut schools to students in Grades 4, 8, and 12 in the areas of mathematics, reading, and science. Recently, school personnel serving in the role of NAEP 2015 school coordinator began the pre-assessment process using an online portal, www.MyNAEP.com. On Monday, December 8, the first day that MyNAEP tasks were accessible to school coordinators, about half of the Connecticut schools logged in and began the process of reviewing and updating lists of sampled students, making accommodations decisions for students with disabilities and English learners, preparing a parent notification, and distributing electronic questionnaires to school principals and teachers of students in the tested subjects and grades. By the end of the first week, 90 percent of schools had started this process. If you have questions about NAEP 2015 in your district, please contact Renee Savoie, NAEP State Coordinator at 860-713-6858 or via e-mail at renee.savoie@ct.gov.



STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

December 19, 2014

Smarter Balanced Elementary Writing Factsheet

A [Smarter Balanced Elementary Writing Factsheet](#) is available on the Smarter Balanced Web site. This document provides an overview of the assessment and scoring of writing in Grades 3 - 5 on the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments.

reminder

Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) Update

The Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) is scheduled to go live in mid-January. The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) will upload District Test Coordinator and Second Contact users. The contact information will be extracted from the [Measurement Incorporated \(MI\) Web Portal](#). Please verify that the contact/e-mail information in the MI Web Portal is accurate.

Initial student-level data will be uploaded to TIDE in mid-January by the CSDE using the Public School Information System (PSIS) Registration Module. This upload will include student demographic information (e.g., name, SASID, gender). The CSDE will then refresh the student-level data file using daily uploads from the PSIS Registration Module. Districts **will not** be able to add or delete students or make changes to student demographic information directly in TIDE. **All changes to enrollment status and student demographic information must be made in PSIS.**

The CSDE will also upload Special Education, English Learner, and Economically Disadvantaged (free/reduced lunch) status in mid-February, after the PSIS January 2015 Collection is certified. After the initial upload, any changes to a student's status, at the time of testing, should be made directly in the PSIS Registration Module. The PSIS Registration Module is being updated to include new fields for **Special Education, English Learner, and Economically Disadvantaged Status during testing.**

More detailed information about the student-level data file and TIDE will be provided in a future update of the *Student Assessment News*. Information about uploading additional fields, such as designated supports and accommodations will also be provided in a later update.

reminder

District Test Coordinator Workshops

District Test Coordinator (DTC) Workshops are scheduled for January 21 – 23, 2015, at the Institute of Business and Technology Development (ITBD) in New Britain. Below are the specific dates/times.

DATE	TIME
January 21, 2015	8:30 – 11:30 a.m.
January 22, 2015 (2 separate workshops)	8:30 – 11:30 a.m. and 1 – 4 p.m.
January 23, 2015	8:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Training will be provided for the administration of the Smarter Balanced assessments for English language arts/literacy and mathematics, CMT/CAPT Science, CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science Assessment, and the Connecticut Alternate Assessments (NCSC) for English language arts and mathematics. These trainings are not intended for School Coordinators and Test Administrators. Registration will be limited to two attendees per district. District Test Coordinators will receive a registration link in a future *Student Assessment News*.

reminder

Connecticut Alternate Assessments (CTAA) and National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC)

The [Connecticut Alternate Assessment \(CTAA\)](#) requires a trained educator to administer the test individually to students. All educators instructing students eligible for the CTAA/NCSC are required to receive training through the CSDE. This training is available as either live training or as an online course. In either case, educators should register through the [SERC Web site](#). Over 230 educators have attended the live training and over 950 have registered for the online course. District Test Coordinators interested in knowing who has completed this training can check on the [Measurement Incorporated \(MI\) web portal](#) under *CAPT Skills Checklist Certified Users* or *CMT Skills Checklist*



STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

December 19, 2014

Certified Users links. Additional online trainings on the actual components of administering and submitting the test online will be available by NCSC closer to the time of testing.

Students who are eligible for the CTAA/NCSC and are in Grades 5 or 8 are required to be administered the CMT Skills Checklist Science. Students in Grade 10 who are eligible are required to **only** be administered the CAPT Skills Checklist Science. Questions can be directed to Janet Stuck (janet.stuck@ct.gov/860-713-6837) or Joe Amenta (joseph.amenta@ct.gov/860-713-6855).

Assessment Reduction Grant

reminder

The [Assessment Reduction Grant](#) was released by the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) on November 19, 2014. Please see the [announcement letter](#) from Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Dianna Roberge-Wentzell. The submission date for proposals is January 9, 2015.

Updating the Measurement Incorporated Web Portal

reminder

To ensure that information regarding the Smarter Balanced Assessment, the CMT/CAPT Science Test (including Skills Checklist Science), and Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) is sent to the appropriate district staff member(s), please verify that the District Test Coordinator (DTC) and Second Contact information is accurate in the District Contact Verification (DCV) application of the [Measurement Incorporated \(MI\) Web Portal](#). The Grades 3 – 8 Smarter Balanced DTC is equivalent to the CMT DTC and the Smarter Balanced High School DTC is equivalent to the CAPT DTC. Please contact the Measurement Incorporated Connecticut Help Line at 1-866-762-1060 or Connecticut@measinc.com for assistance with the MI Web Portal. If you received this communication and are not the DTC, please forward this newsletter to the appropriate district staff member.

The Connecticut State Department of Education is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons. The Connecticut State Department of Education does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of **race, color, religious creed, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability (including, but not limited to, intellectual disability, past or present history of mental disorder, physical disability or learning disability), genetic information, or any other basis prohibited by Connecticut state and/or federal nondiscrimination laws.** The Connecticut State Department of Education does not unlawfully discriminate in employment and licensing against qualified persons with a prior criminal conviction. Inquiries regarding the Connecticut State Department of Education's nondiscrimination policies should be directed to:

Levy Gillespie
Equal Employment Opportunity Director/American with Disabilities Act Coordinator
Connecticut State Department of Education
25 Industrial Park Road
Middletown, CT 06457

